

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 31, 2007 in which claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 21, 23, 25, 27, 32, 34, 36, 38, 39, 41, 61, 68, and 69 were rejected. The Examiner has indicated that claims 29, 30, and 63-65, prior to this amendment, recite allowable subject matter. With this amendment, Applicant has amended each of the independent claims to recite a combination of subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action mailed December 31, 2007, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of dependent claim 29, prior to this amendment, is allowable. Applicant has amended independent claim 21 to recite the subject matter of claim 29 indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claim 21, as amended, recites a combination of subject matter that is patentable over the references of record. Accordingly, independent claim 21 and corresponding dependent claims 23, 25, and 27 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

In the Office Action mailed December 31, 2007, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of dependent claim 63, prior to this amendment, is allowable. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 7, 11, 32, 39, and 61 to recite the subject matter of claim 63 indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1, 7, 11, 32, 39, and 61, as amended, recite a combination of subject matter that is patentable over the references of record. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 7, 11, 32, 39, and 61 and corresponding dependent claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 17, 34, 36, 38, 41, 43, 68, and 69 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

By amending the independent claims to include subject matter indicated to be allowable by the Examiner, Applicant does not indicate agreement or acquiescence with the rejection of

claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 21, 23, 25, 27, 32, 34, 36, 38, 39, 41, 61, 68, and 69 as set forth in the Office Action mailed December 31, 2007. Independent claims 1, 7, 11, 22, 32, 39, and 61 have been amended only to obtain prompt allowance of claims reciting subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable.

2. Amendments to Dependent Claims 6, 8-10, 15, 17, 25, 29, 30, 34, 36, 63, and 64

Applicant has amended dependent claims 8, 17, 29, 30, 36, and 63 to specify a further limitation of the subject matter claimed in the corresponding independent claims. These amendments are supported by the Application as originally filed. See e.g., paragraphs [0036], [0038], [0041], originally filed claim 3, and Figs. 1-5 and 10. Claims 6, 15, 25, and 34 have been amended only to clarify the limitations recited in these claims and not to change the scope of these claims. Claims 9, 10, and 64 have each been amended to depend from the correct claim. No new matter has been added.

3. Conclusion

Claims 1, 3, 5-13, 15, 17, 18, 21-23, 25, 27-30, 32, 34, 36-39, 41, 43, 61, 63-66, and 68-70 are pending in the present application. Claims 10, 12, 18, 22, 28, 37, 43, 66, and 70 are presently withdrawn. Claims 1, 6-11, 15, 17, 21, 25, 29, 30, 32, 34, 36, 39, 61, 63, and 64 have been amended. The Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely

acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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